KANSAS MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. VI. TOPEKA, KANSAS, SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1894. No. 15.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

An Address.

Delivered at the Commencement Exercises of the Kansas Medical College March 28, 1894,

BY

GENERAL J. C. CALDWELL.

I am reminded that to-night there is assembled in Rome, the eternal city, to hold their first session to-morrow, probably the most notable council of doctors ever convened. The most famous medical men of every civilized land are met in conference, and who will say that the result of their deliberations will not be more fruitful in benefits to the human race than those of any theological or church council met to bind rather than break chains, to enslave rather than to enfranchise?

It is, perhaps, presumptuous for a layman to address doctors on the subject of their science and art. Yet I have observed that those who are in a current are not the best judges of the swiftness and force of that current.

The changes are so slow and the improvements so gradual that the progress made is, perhaps, better estimated from the outside than from the inside. On the astonishing advance made in our memory in one branch of medical science—anatomy and surgery—all men, professional and non-professional, are agreed. Operations are now performed with certainty and success that were not deemed possible forty years ago. The beneficent knife of the surgeon has visited every portion of this fair temple of the body and brought relief. Lungs, stomach, intestines, the arterial tract, the brain, the nervous and even the spinal cord have all been assailed, and skillful surgeons have "cut beyond the wound to make the cure complete."

Shakspeare tells us—

> "The times have been,
> That when the brains were out the man would die,
> And there an end."

But those times have passed away.

Of therapeutics, however,—the cure and prevention of disease—there is a popular opinion that little or no progress has been made in the last half century. It is said that there are fashions in medicine as in dress, and that these are constantly changing; that the excessive drugging and bleeding of years ago are not now in vogue, but that there is no certainty that they may not return, and that many doctors of the old school still believe in them.

Some forty years ago Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, perhaps better known, certainly more widely known, in literature than in science, wrote on the subject of disease and its treatment something like this (I quote from memory): We all live near a great cave, inhabited by wild beasts, who rush out from time to time and seize and carry us off into the unknown darkness. Certain medicine men, either by charms or drugs, are supposed to have influence over these beasts, and occasionally induce them to drop their prey. These men are called skillful doctors.

I hardly think that the genial doctor, if he were writing to-day, when we are attacking disease in its germ and origin, would use such language or illustration. It would be strange, indeed, if medicine alone of the sciences had taken no part in that wondrous expansion of the human mind which is the great characteristic of the last half of the nineteenth century. To him who looks be-

neath the surface and finds in history something more than a chronicle of the petty intrigues of courts, the ambitions and rivalries of politicians and statesmen, of the great prize fights of embattled armies, there are certain epochs when forces, long working silently, burst forth, like the century plant, into bloom, and color and change the whole subsequent course of human events.

To me there seem to be three periods in authentic history which stand apart from all others as epochs of mental enlargement.

The first was in Greece in the fifth century before the christian era. The second in various European countries, particularly Germany, in the sixteenth century. The third in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

In the first the movement was political, in the second religious, and in the third scientific.

THE FIFTH CENTURY, B. C.—POLITICAL.

In the first period democracy was born, and for the first time in the history of the human race the reign of law was substituted for that of force. Political liberty was based on the habit of hearing both sides and then deciding, the minority peacefully yielding to the majority.

This "sovereign rut" of Athens, as it has been contemptuously called, clothed with executive functions, made one of the best governments the world ever saw, and taught constitutional morality to all succeeding ages. A great English historian declares that the political intelligence of the average Athenian citizen was greater than that of the average member of parliament. The citizens in their collective capacity discussed and decided all questions of war and peace, of finance and administration. The splendor of Athenian literature and art has overshadowed its greater political development. Athenian literature was the effect and not the cause of Athenian liberty. Science received its impulse and medical science was born. The life of Hippocrates, the father of medicine, spans the period of Athens' greatest glory. He was four years old when Aeschylus died, and was borne to the tomb when Alexander the Great was an infant in the cradle. No man ever had a more illustrious list of contemporaries.

He was four years old when Aeschylus, the first tragic poet, died; was thirty-five years younger than Sophocles, and twenty younger than Euripides, both of whom he outlived. Among his contemporaries were the philosophers Socrates, Plato and Aristotle; the historians Herodotus, Thucydides and Xenophen; the poets Anocreon, Pindar and Arestophanes; the orators Pericles, Lysias, Isocrates, Aeschines and Demosthenes. By common consent of all succeeding ages, Hippocrates has been called the Father of Medicine. He knew little of anatomy, the superstitious reverence of his countrymen for the dead, depriving him of all knowledge derived from dissection. But as a close, keen and accurate observer he has probably never been surpassed. The "Hippocratic face," as indicative of approaching dissolution, has hardly been improved upon by succeeding observers. What I wish particularly to call your attention to is the fact that this marvelous enlargement of the human mind, as illustrated by names immortal in literature, art and science, was the result of political freedom, which broke one of the chains which fetter the human soul.

THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.—RELIGIOUS.

More than twenty dreary centuries must pass away before there is another grand uprising, another great attempt to break a chain more galling than that which fetters the body—the bondage of the soul. The simple religion taught by Christ upon the Syrian mount had, in the course of centuries, degenerated into a hierarchy, the most skillfully organized, the most firmly compacted and the most oppressive that the world has ever seen. It is difficult, perhaps impossible, for us to conceive to-day how the Catholic church brooded like an incubus on the human mind, stifling all free thought and punishing all free inquiry. The fearful list of the hundreds of thousands burned at the stake, or slain in religious wars, or imprisoned in foul dungeons, or driven to misery or de-

spair, is the least of the evils it has inflicted on humanity. By its oppression the human mind was stunted, and the development of knowledge and civilization checked for centuries. The protest of the sixteenth century lifted at least a portion of the burden which had oppressed humanity and left the human soul partially free. The result was great and universal. Great names and great discoveries illustrate that and the succeeding century. In England there were Spenser, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Beaumont and Fletcher, Sir Thomas More, Raleigh, Drake, Sydney, Cabot, John Knox, Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, and Bacon, who founded inductive science and overthrew the philosophy of Aristotle. In Germany there were Erasmus, Luther, Melancthon, Copernicus, Kepler, Tycho, Brake and Rubens. In Italy, Galileo, Tasso, Ariosto, Michel Angelo, Raphael, Titian, Correggio, Leonardo da Vinci and Machiavelli. In France, Rabelais, Montaigne, Moliere, Pascal, and, greatest of all, Delcartes. In Spain, Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Calderon, Loyola, Columbus. In little Portugal, Camœus, author of one of the three great epics since Virgil and Magellan, most wonderful of navigators, who alone has stamped his name indelibly on the earth and the sky. The church had taught, as of divine authority, that the earth was flat. This man sailed around it and struck thereby one of the most fatal blows ever received by the infallible church. The discovery of a new world enlarged the horizon, as the revolt against a despotic, infallible church emancipated the intellect of humanity. The motive of the uprising was religious, but the results were even greater in literature, art and science.

In science a new departure was made, and experimental philosophy was born. Useful discoveries were substituted for acute and idle speculation and science entered on that grand career which has changed the conditions of human life.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.—SCIENTIFIC.

In the next great flowering period of the human mind the motive is neither political or religious, but scientific. It is the age in which we live—the last half of the nineteenth century. I imagine that most men, if asked to name that for which our age will be most remembered in the centuries to come, would name either the abolition of slavery in civilized countries, the consolidation of our republic or the unification of Germany and Italy.

To me it seems that, great as these results are, they will less attract the admiration and gratitude of the coming centuries than the marvelous expansion of the human mind that has come from the discoveries of science differing not only in degree, but also in kind, from all which preceded.

I do not now speak of those discoveries which have increased human happiness, and lessened human suffering. Science has indeed "lengthened life; it has mitigated pain; it has extinguished diseases; it has increased the fertility of the soil; it has given new securities to the mariner; it has furnished new arms to the warrior; it has spanned great rivers and estuaries with bridges of form unknown to our fathers; it has guided the thunderbolt innocuously from heaven to earth; it has lighted up the night with the splendor of the day; it has extended the range of human vision; it has multiplied the power of human muscles; it has accelerated motion; it has annihilated distance; it has facilitated intercourse, correspondence, all friendly offices, all despatch of business; it has enabled man to descend to the depths of the sea, to soar into the air, to penetrate into the noxious recesses of the earth, to traverse the land in cars which whirl along without horses, and the ocean in ships which run twenty knots an hour against the wind. These are but a part of its fruits, and of its first fruits. For it is a philosophy which never rests, which has never attained, which is never perfect. Its law is progress. A point which yesterday was invisible is its goal to-day, and will be its starting post to-morrow."

I do not dwell on these achievements, but call your attention to the new conceptions of life and the universe, which have revolutionized human thought. We no longer

speak or think of dead matter. Everything is instinct with life. The tiniest mote which floats in the sunbeam has its attractions and repulsions, its loves and hates, and serves an important, if not necessary, function in the general economy. From the lowest mineral to the highest animal, all are but parts of one general whole, in ceaseless evolution, clothing them with beauty and working out the highest human development. It is strange that the apostles of the new thought are by many feared and by some denounced as materialists. To me they seem the true spiritualists, animating what was before deemed dead matter, and teaching the harmony and completeness of the divine plan. They have proved that no force is ever lost, no matter ever annihilated, and no thought ever wasted. That these new ideas should shock old beliefs and prejudices, old traditions and institutions, was inevitable. All sudden expansion, whether physical or mental, at first gives pain. I doubt whether any of us have ever inflated our lungs to their fullest capacity with the life-giving air. Make the experiment, and the first sensation is that of pain. In like manner a sudden mental expansion is attended with a shock. The age of faith and tradition has passed away. The age of reason has come. Before its bar are summoned institutions and beliefs, hoary with antiquity, and by its decisions must stand or fall. Nothing is sacred because it is old.

That in these periods of enfranchisement some men should go to excess is not strange. It is inevitable. It is a phenomenon that has attended all periods of mental awakening. Everything is now summoned before the bar of human reason, and by its decision must stand or fall. Nothing, however consecrated by antiquity or religion, is held sacred.

The age of tradition and faith has passed away. An objection cannot now, as of old, be answered by "thus saith the master," or even "thus saith the Lord." In religion, in politics, in government, in social ethics, and even in literature, there are the wildest speculations and the absurdest theories all clamoring for recognition, and not to be put aside contemptuously, but only after calm consideration. In religion we have a constantly-increasing number of sects, attacking alike the infallible pope and the infallible book. In politics we have anarchists, socialists in all their gradations, disciples of Fourier, Henry Georg, Bellamy and others, and in literature the realists against the romanticists. In all this there is nothing to discourage us. After the tempest comes the calm, when the grass springs, the flowers bloom and the wheat ripens, and mother nature resumes her quiet sway. The torch of truth, like that of liberty, burns brightest, after being most ruldely shaken. In our country I have no fear of the socialist or anarchist. A more dangerous man by far is he who, absorbed in the pursuit of wealth, abdicates his duties as a citizen and permits public affairs to pass into the control of the interested, the incompetent and the corrupt.

From wild speculation and wilder theories it is a relief to turn to a contemplation of the solid achievements of science. I have already spoken of some things it has done for our daily life. It has also broadened and deepened our conception of the universe. There is no longer any dead matter. Every atom, whether in earth or sun, in moon or star, is instinct with life and motion, in perpetual ebb and flow. To me it is inconceivable that the men who have proved these great truths have been denounced as materialists. They have proved that matter is indestructible, that no force is ever lost, no thought ever wasted.

Take electricity, the youngest of the sciences. What it has already accomplished surpasses the wildest dreams of oriental imagination. Not only does it now furnish us the three great desiderata of light, heat and motion, but it has brought into instant communication the most distant nations, so that what was yesterday the thought of one man becomes to-day the property of a million, and to-morrow shall be reproduced in myriad forms to charm and bless the world. It has caught and imprisoned the fleeting tones of the human voice, so that the remotest posterity may hear the very voice of Tennyson, Carlyle, Huxley, Spencer, Darwin, Castelar,

Blaine, Bismarck and Gladstone. Mr. Preece, a scientist, lecturing before the Royal Society of England a few weeks ago, and giving an account of his experiments in transmitting currents without wire, states as a *possibility* that we may yet induce currents which shall traverse the interplanetary spaces, and if other worlds are inhabited by intelligent beings they may receive our transmitted messages. The thought makes one's head ache. And yet electricity is only in its infancy.

In no science do the discoveries of science give greater hope of the amelioration of human suffering and the prolongation of human life than in the science of medicine. Introduce under the skin the finest needle, and draw the tiniest drop of blood, the microscope will show you thousands of active little creatures skurrying like the inhabitants of a Dutch village when a dike is broken to repair the break and stop the outflow of the life-giving fluid. The blood is filled with myriads of these little creatures — the body's police, ceaselessly active in repairing damage, removing obstructions and attacking malefactors. For there are evil beings as well as good, maleficent as well as beneficent. The old war of Ormued and Ahriman, of good and evil, is fought out in human blood. The most terrible of all the foes to human life, which has destroyed more than war and pestilence combined, is the bacillus of tuberculosis. It is only in the last few years that we have known the real cause of consumption. It is now thoroughly known. Another thing is conclusively established, that this terrible disease is not hereditary. A weakened power of resistance may be transmitted, but not the disease itself. That comes from without and can be guarded against.

The great German, Koch, was thought to have discovered the means of its cure. The announcement was premature. But there is every reason to hope, and even expect, that what Pasteur has done for hydrophobia will before many years be done for cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever, and, most terrible of all, for tuberculosis.

Remember, young men and women, who go forth to-day as graduates in the art of healing, that the old empiricism has passed away. Disease is now attacked in its germ and origin, and not by palliatives. You will be false to your teaching and your duty if you do not keep in touch with the most advanced thought, the most recent discoveries.

If it be nobler to restore life than to destroy it, to relieve pain than to cause it, to avert suffering than to inflict it, then surely the doctor is nobler than the warrior.

You should consider yourselves not merely as workmen gaining a livelihood, but as priests consecrated to the service of humanity, your mission that of prolonging life, averting disease and mitigating pain; your temple, the human body, so fearfully and wonderfully made; your profession, ennobled by the example of Christ, the great Physician of the Soul, who did not disdain to be also the physician of the body, but went about healing the sick.

Erythema Multeforme.

Inflammation of the skin is found usually upon the hands and feet, sometimes extending up the limb and occasionally spreading over the body. The inflammation is accompanied by more or less febrile reaction, the appetite is poor and the patient is restless at night from the irritation of the skin. The symptoms are quite alarming, owing to its rapid spread over the surface of the body. The disease is often diagnosed as erysipelas by inexperienced physicians and treated as an erysipelas, which always aggravates the inflammation of the skin.

The best remedy in erythematous inflammation of the skin is bicarb. soda one-half ounce to water one pint, to be applied on antiseptic cotton. The constitutional symptoms are best treated by tonics and saline cathartics.

Kansas Medical Journal.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, INCLUDING POSTAGE:

Per annum, in advance..... $1 00
Single copies..... 15 cents

Subscription may begin at any time. The safest mode of remittance is by bank check or postal money order drawn to the order of the undersigned. When neither is accessible, remittances may be made at the risk of the publishers by forwarding in Registered Letter. Address

DR. W. E. McVEY, PUBLISHER,
723 Kansas Avenue.

Editor-in-Chief:
J. E. MINNEY, A.M., M.D., Topeka, Kas.
Associates:
S. G. STEWART, M.D., Topeka, Kas.
J. C. MCCLINTOCK, A.M., M.D., Topeka, Kas.
M. B. WARD, A.M., M.D., Topeka, Kas.
W. E. MCVEY, B.S., M.D., Topeka, Kas.

Topeka, Kansas, Saturday, April 14, 1894.

Kansas.

We are pleased to be able to give our readers in full the following little gem on our far-famed state. It was a response to the toast, "Kansas," by Dr. M. B. Ward, at the banquet of the Tri-State Medical Society:

"The name of the Sunflower State has become a household word in almost every hamlet within the limits of civilization. Cities are often greater than the states in which they are located geographically.

"Kansas, in marked distinction to many states in the union, is known on account of her grand achievements, and not because she has within her borders one or more large cities to attract the world's attention.

"What would be known of Missouri were it not for her rich and beautiful St. Louis and her stirring and prosperous manufacturing city at the mouth of the Kaw?

"What shall I say of our prairie neighbor, Illinois? Who would ever hear of proud Illinois, if traveling in a foreign country, were it not that she was the home of one of the greatest soldiers in history, General Grant, the soldier-statesman Logan and our immortal and martyred President Lincoln? Of course Illinois has the greatest of American cities, the city that all the world acknowledges to be the wonder of modern times, but Chicago is so nearly out of the state that Illinois is hardly entitled to the credit of ownership.

"Unfortunate Iowa! I cannot now recall anything that has ever happened within her borders that could be construed as famous. To be sure, Iowa is a *good*, substantial state, but without special reputation save among her sisters of the union. Thus I might continue *ad nauseam*.

"It is not proper that I should occupy much of the late hour to mention numerous points of vantage possessed by Kansas, as compared with other states. Many things happen in such a great state that sound best when not repeated. The fact is that all the wrong done in Kansas is easily discovered, and is, of course, given to the world with every embellishment known to the press. Everybody knows every other person's business. In this respect Kansas is similar to a village. There are no great machines of vice and corruption within her borders, because there are no large cities where corruption and vice in all forms always take root and become giants of sin, whose poisonous venom is injected into every form of society and government. Thus all of the little, mean and insignificant things that transpire in Kansas seem to furnish food for gossip to all within the scope of the modern associated press.

"In the face of the many discouraging features of Kansas' history, we are here tonight to inform you that we are proud of our state. What people have accomplished more to advance civilization and unify the states into the greatest nation on earth than have Kansans?

"It is little more than three decades since Kansas was a barren wilderness, and largely inhabited by the "beasts of the field and fowls of the air." To-day she has 1,500,000 people. She has ninety per cent. of American-born citizens. Most of the early settlers were young, and American-born. No loafers were of the number, because people of this class never go where they must work or starve. There never have been any *soft snaps* in Kansas.

"*Ad astra per aspera* has been the universal watchword, as well as the motto of her people. Her institutions of learning are the pride of the nation. Her permanent school fund is now $600,000. Kansas has eighteen colleges, with over 4,000 students, nearly all of whom are Kansans. There are one hundred towns and cities having from 1,000 to 40,000 inhabitants.

"Time will not permit me to dwell longer on this phase of the subject. To-night we are naturally more interested concerning the progress of the medical profession than all else. February 10, 1859, the Kansas State Medical Society was organized in the city of Lawrence. A small number of the lovers of their profession struggled to sustain this embryonic society. The war relegated it to desuetude. The profession was rather disorganized until the early seventies, when the legislature passed a law regulating the medical practice, which law was urged by the state society, and is the only law on the statutes that has stood the test of the courts. In 1879 another law was passed after a most bitter fight, which was thought would remove the objectionable features of the first enactment. However, the supreme court ruled that the enactment was unconstitutional. Thus the profession has had to contend against and compete with quack medicine venders of every conceivable kind. I am informed that the state board of health is going to endeavor to enforce the 1871 law, and that they have made arrests of certain advertising medicine venders with the view of testing the constitutionality of the law, and the power of the state board of health to regulate the practice of medicine in the state.

"It would seem out of place for me to mention the proud position of the profession of Kansas to-day, in spite of the unfavorable environment. Although I have mentioned the fact that large cities are large factors in the crimes of the people, at the same time we turn our faces to the large cities expecting that they only possess the power to move the world in the science and practice of medicine and surgery.

"While I shall not attempt to detract one whit from the cities as medical centers, I do claim that in the much-abused state of Kansas, without a city of over 40,000 people, we have shown our ability to hoist the standard of professional accomplishments to a position of honor, and it is our purpose to never permit it to be lowered or trampled on by our neighbors, near or far.

KANSAS.

"Land of the golden wheat and yellow corn,
Of rare sunshine, of rosy night and morn,
Thy acres vast, thy billowy prairies wide,
Thy undulating form we view with pride.
Kansas! 'Tis here the brilliant sunflower reigns,
The bright, unrivaled flower of the plains.
Kansas! We love thy great, thy glorious name—
Thy present, past, and everlasting fame!
Men of progressive thoughts and deeds are ours;
The world is filled with wonder at their powers.
Kansas! Each day in glory like the sun's
Thy magic car of mighty commerce runs.
Kansas! Thy brave men come to nobly stand
For freedom, temperance, home and native land.
Kansas! Thou art the gleaming central gem
Which shines in great Columbia's diadem.
All hail the day when Kansas land was born!
Chant one and all *ad astra* on that morn."

Annual Meeting of the Golden Belt Medical Society.

The Golden Belt Medical Society met in annual session in the parlor of the Union Pacific Hotel at Abilene, Kansas, April 5, 1894.

The meeting was called to order promptly at 3 o'clock P. M. by President Felty.

The following were present during the meeting: Drs. Sutherland, Hazlett, Gunn, Murphy, J. W. Felty, LaFevre, McClintock, H. B. Felty, Daugherty, Austin, Campbell and Hodge.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The names of F. M. Campbell, of Claffin, and O. F. Searl, of Solomon City, were proposed for active membership; referred to Drs. Gunn and Sutherland as committee on elections, who reporting favorably, both were elected by unanimous acclimation.

The secretary-treasurer next read his annual report. On motion of Dr. Gunn, seconded by Dr. Murphy, the report was accepted and approved.

Dr. Hazlett moved that those members who had been dropped from the rolls of the society could be re-admitted to active membership at any time by the payment of all back dues. Seconded by Dr. Sutherland. Carried.

Dr. Gunn moved that the chair appoint a committee of three to draft resolutions unfavorable to the bill before the senate which reduced the number of officers in the army medical corps, these resolutions to be sent to Senator Martin. Tabled.

Dr. Sutherland presented a clinical case and asked the chair to appoint a committee to investigate the nature of the same and report upon it at the earliest possible moment. Thereupon the chair appointed Drs. Hazlett, Gunn and McClintock.

The committee returning, reported the case to be one of pyopneumothorax, probably of tubercular origin, and recommended that the only measures, which in their judgment offered any hope, was the improvement of the patient's nutrition, and that any surgical interference would be unwise and inexpedient.

Next in order was the election of officers for the ensuing year, the following being chosen by unanimous acclimation: President, L. H. Murphy, Minneapolis; first vice-president, J. N. Kechersid, Hope; second vice-president, H. H. Sutherland, Herington; secretary-treasurer, E. B. LaFevre, Abilene.

A communication from Dr. J. N. Page, secretary of the Northwest Kansas Medical Association, was read, inviting the Golden Belt to meet with them in joint session on June 5, 1894, at WaKeeney, Kansas. Because of the distance it was decided unwise for the Golden Belt to accept the kind invitation extended, and the secretary instructed to notify Dr. Page of the society's disposition.

Upon motion of Dr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. LaFevre, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Salina, July 5, 1894.

Dr. Felty, as retiring president, made some remarks detailing the work done by the society under his administration, and spoke of the means of making the society one of still greater interest, size and usefulness, after which the newly-elected president, Dr. Murphy, assumed the chair and conducted the meeting during the remainder of the session.

The president called for the report of the committee appointed to draft resolutions on the death of Dr. Hays, of Junction City. The following resolutions were read, approved and the committee discharged:

"WHEREAS, This society has learned of the death of Dr. R. M. Hays, a member in good standing; therefore be it

"*Resolved*, That in the death of Dr. R. M. Hays this society loses a worthy member and the community a kind-hearted physician.

"*Resolved*, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the society.

[Signed],

P. DAUGHERTY, M.D.,
T. N. GUNN, M.D.,
Committee."

The following papers were read, referred

to the committee on publication and fully discussed by the members present:

"Preventive Medicine," by T. N. Gunn, Chapman, Kansas.

"Accute Bright's Disease," by L. H. Murphy, Minneapolis, Kansas.

"Remarks on Abdominal Surgery," by Hal C. Wyman, Detroit, Michigan.

"A Rare Heart Lesion," by E. E. Hazlett, Abilene, Kansas.

The secretary brought up the matter of a proposition looking toward the formation of a competent medical practice act for the state of Kansas. The question was thoroughly discussed and Drs. Felty, Daugherty and Brewer were selected as delegates to attend a meeting to be called at some future time, the purpose of which will be the forming of a suitable bill, and the secretary was instructed to properly notify the above-named delegates of their appointment, and to urge their attendance.

The following were appointed by the chair as delegates from the Golden Belt Medical Society to the Kansas State Society: Dr. J. N. Ketchersid, Hope; Dr. T. N. Gunn, Chapman; Dr. W. S. Harvey, Salina; Dr. J. W. Robb, Russell; Dr. H. H. Sutherland, Herrington; Dr. H. H. Russell, Lucas.

Because of the remoteness of the meeting place, it was deemed unnecessary to appoint delegates to the American Medical Association.

Adjourned.

Respectfully,
E. B. LAFEVRE, M.D.,
Secretary.

Society Notes from the Northeast Kansas Medical Society.

BY J. A. RAFTER, M.D.

The Northeast Kansas Medical Association convened at Wetmore in special session April 10, 1894.

Dr. Haigh was called to the chair.

There were present Drs. Haigh and Graham, of Wetmore, Drs. McClintock, Sheldon and Magee, of Topeka, and Drs. McCandless and Rafter, of Holton.

A most excellent paper under the caption of "Metritis and its Treatment," was presented by Dr. A. B. McCandless, of Holton. In a concise manner the doctor cited opinions of our standard authorities, commenting in an intelligent manner on each idea advanced, giving illustrations of his personal experience in private practice, which has extended over a period of forty years. The writer was of the opinion that metritis as a distinct pathological condition does not exist, but is always a part of all diseased conditions of the uterine body. The treatment advocated by Dr. McCandless was rest—both to body and mind. The doctor strongly advises against instrumental examinations in unmarried women. With much earnestness the doctor advocated cleanliness—*absolute* cleanliness of hands, clothing and all instruments used in examination of all uterine diseases.

The paper was discussed at some length by Drs. Magee, McClintock Sheldon, Haigh and Rafter. The concensus of opinion seemed to be that metritis, as a distinct disease, seldom exists.

Dr. W. L. Schenck, of Topeka, presented a paper entitled "Is Alcohol a Stimulant?" It was unfortunate that Dr. Schenck was unable to be present, on account of the interest manifested in the paper and an earnest desire to have its distinguished author present it in person. A motion was made and passed unanimously asking Dr. Schenck to be present at the next meeting of the society and personally present his excellent and scholarly article.

THE commencement banquet at Creighton Medical College was remarkable for the musical program furnished entirely by students of the college. There were vocal and instrumental selections in all varieties, and the musicians were all students.

A New College Building.

The charter of the Kansas Medical College Building Association has been filed, with the following gentlemen as trustees: John E. Minney, M.D., S. E. Sheldon, M.D., William S. Lindsay, M.D., William E. Swift, Samuel T. Towe, D. W. Nellis, Judge John Guthrie, William E. McVey, M.D., H. K. Rowley, S. G. Stewart, M.D., J. C. McClintock, M.D., J. S. Collins and P. I. Bonebrake.

Stock will be issued and a college building will be erected in sufficient time for occupancy next fall. The outlook for the Kansas Medical College is most flattering. The past year has been a remarkable one in many respects. In spite of the stringency in finances the class was the largest in the history of the school. At the beginning of the term the college was heavily in debt, but at the present time is able to settle all claims against it and have a margin to go on. We understand from the officers of the college that already a large number of new students have made arrangements to enter at the beginning of the next term, and the association feel that larger and better quarters must be provided. The new building will be in every respect a credit to the state.

Amick-Culbertson.

The *Lancet-Clinic* and the *Cincinnati Medical Journal* seem to be devoting considerable of their space to discussions of the personal attributes of the above individuals. This is doubtless of vital interest to the editors of these journals, but we can hardly see what vast interest to the profession is involved. Personal matters are usually of sufficient interest to attract some attention at first, but such a continuation of dirt throwing becomes very tiresome. A little more medicine and considerable less fighting would add to the merits of several journals we know of.

The Pharmacology of To-Day.

The successful practitioner must have a thorough knowledge of drugs, the therapeutic properties of elementary drugs and of all the compounds, of the official, as well as the unofficial, preparations. Proprietary preparations are as prominent factors in modern therapeutics as the old standards of the pharmacopœa. The rapid increase in the number of pharmaceutical preparations is very threatening to any prospect of an accurate or complete knowledge of the science of medicine.

In the new U. S. Dispensatory about one thousand articles have been added to part two on unofficial preparations. There are given in this edition twenty-five of the phenyl compounds. Taking into consideration the thousand or more preparations not recognized in the dispensatory and which are used more or less continuously, the amount of study required to keep a passable acquaintance with the pharmacology of to-day is appalling. The effect of this influx of new drugs is becoming a serious question. It is true that the physiological action should be a sufficient guide in the use of any drug, but unfortunately complete investigations in this line have often not been completed before the drug is placed upon the market and its use must necessarily be a process of experimentation.

If some regulation could be made requiring that an accurate and complete report of the physiological action must be furnished with the introduction of every new remedy it would greatly aid the physician in his selection and the probable results to be gained.

PHYSICIAN (to bank president).—"Your habits are too sedentary. You should take more exercise."

Patient.—"How would a run on the bank do?"—*Buffalo Enquirer.*

Consumption in Philadelphia.

The sanitary committee of the Board of Health of Philadelphia have decided that at the present time it is not necessary to require the registration of cases of tuberculosis. They request, however, that physicians notify them when disinfection is required, and that when a death occurs an inspector will be sent to see that proper disinfection has been performed.

We judge from this that the Philadelphia board considers a disinfection after the death of the patient as being all that is necessary. We might modestly ask what is to be done when the dangers of infection are greatest—during the life of the patient?

It seems very much like locking the door after the horse is stolen. During life the patient is not only liable to continued autoinfection, but is constantly rendering others liable to infection by poisonous expectorations and exhalations of germ-ladened air. It is at this time that sanitary precautions should be used if we hope to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. If proper disposal be made of the sputum and all excretions from the body, and the atmosphere of the rooms, occupied by the patient, be rendered antiseptic, there will be slight need of sanitary interference after the death of the patient, and this sad event will occur neither so quickly nor so frequently as is now the case.

We hope to see the time when tuberculous patients will be treated with the same precautions as to surroundings and attention and diet as we are careful to give our surgical cases. It is only on such a basis as this that we can hope for any great degree of success either in the cure or the prevention of tuberculosis.

Treatment of Chronic Rheumatism.

The treatment of chronic rheumatism has always been obscure on account of several affections, which have nothing in common but chronicity, being confounded together.

These diseases may be grouped as follows:

1. Rheumatism characterized essentially by deformity of the joints, deforming or nodular rheumatism.

2. Articular rheumatism succeeding an acute attack and rendering the parts useless.

3. Multiple manifestations of rheumatism, chronic in character.

The first group is a special evolution of the disease; there is no acute condition and no heart complications. It attacks debilitated individuals, especially women; its march is progressive—a deformity once acquired is never cured, but steadily progresses.

The second division is not marked by deformity, but by dryness of the articular surfaces, producing functional loss of power. It is liable to accessions, during one of which heart symptoms may be noticed first. The third variety shows muscular pains, neuralgias, dermalgia—the rheumatic state which has received the name of chronic rheumatism.

Each of these groups requires a special treatment.

For the deforming variety nutrition must be kept up, best by use of arsenic and the iodides. Sometimes arsenic appears to aggravate the symptoms; then iodine and the iodides will be found to answer best.

The coal-tar antipyretics and analgesics are sometimes useful, especially phenacetine.

To this medication must be added all the essentials of hygiene and alimentation, electricity, massage, etc. The treatment, however, is not very satisfactory.

In the chronic rheumatic cases, beginning with an acute attack and becoming localized in some of the articulations, the condition depends probably on its action on the cord.

There is, in fact, a great similarity between this sort of chronic rheumatism and the articular deformities which Charcot described in cases of tabes. Here the salicy-

lates are of service as preventives and cures. External means, as electricity, massage, baths, are, however, the chief reliance, combined with regulation of the diet, approaching to vegetarianism.

In true chronic rheumatism (of the third group), the rheumatic diathesis, the salicylates, massage, baths, diuretics and laxatives, thermal waters and alimentary regulation are the best means for prevention and cure.—DUJARDIN-BEAUMETZ in *Times and Register.*

The Prognostic Significance of Tube-Casts.

The study of the tube-casts is the best basis for a prognosis in any case of inflammation of the renal parenchyma. The casts represent the pathological condition of the tubules, and by studying the casts the progress of the case can be ascertained. The tube-casts must first be classified. The grouping should be based upon their pathological source. (1) All tube-casts are the result of some form of nephritis. (2) Some casts are the product of non-exudative inflammation which is simply a catarrhal condition. (3) Other casts denote exudative or croupous inflammation. (4) Each class has varieties which are uniform, characteristic and denote uniform and characteristic pathological lesions. The following is based on pathological grounds:

(1) Casts of non-exudative origin.
  (*a*) Mucin-casts (or mucous casts).
  (*b*) Mucin-casts inclosing cell-forms.
  (*c*) Mucin-casts inclosing crystals.
(2) Exudative casts (fibrinous casts).
  (*a*) Hyaline casts.
  (*b*) Waxy or amyloid casts.
  (*c*) Blood casts.
  (*d*) Epithelial casts { large. / small.
  (*e*) Granular casts { large. / small.
  (*f*) Fatty casts { large. / small.

The prognostic inferences, based on casts, are derived, first, on the origin of the casts, whether exudative or not—mucous or fibrinous. If the latter, the lesion is a catarrhal one and means only a cloudy swelling of the renal epithelium with a favorable prognosis. If the former, it warrants the conclusion that a croupous inflammation is present. Mucous casts are an indication of the approach of a chronic nephritis. Catarrhal inflammation may in time become croupous.

Second, upon the size or diameter of the casts. Small casts are formed in tubules not denuded of their epithelial lining, and hence their functional activity is not yet destroyed. The prognosis is therefore that they may regain their functional activity. Casts of large diameter originate in tubules deprived of their epithelial cells. Their function being thus destroyed, the prognosis is grave. If large and small casts appear together, the latter predominating, the inference is that a majority of the tubules still retain their epithelial lining and the prognosis is not so bad.

Third, the regularity or symmetry of the casts has a prognostic significance. A symmetrical cast must have been formed in a tubule not yet distorted by pathological connective tissue. If the casts are twisted, distorted or asymmetrical, they must have been formed in tubes of like characteristics, which indicates more or less encroachment upon, and strangulation by, pathological connective tissue. It proves that cirrhosis is more or less well advanced and the kidneys correspondingly damaged. In the last stage of tubal nephritis the decayed, roughened or "rubbed" appearance of the casts shows that the tubes wherein they are formed are undergoing fatty degeneration.

Fourth, the hyaline or structureless casts denote croupous inflammation. In the absence of other casts, denotes a favorable prognosis.

Renal hyperemia is denoted by the hyaline cast loaded with blood corpuscles. The renal vessels burst and hemorrhage occurs. If this happens as an acute process, the prognosis is favorable. If as an exacerbation of a chronic one, the prognosis is grave. If the epithelial casts have undergone no es-

sential pathological change, a favorable prognosis is warranted. The prognosis is more or less grave according to the amount of fatty degeneration.

Fifth, if hyaline and epithelial casts coexist, with a predominance of the former, the prognosis is less bad than when the latter are predominant. If fatty and epithelial casts exist together, the danger is greater if the former predominate and *vice versa*.—I. N. DANFORTH, A.M., M.D., in *Medical News*.

The Health of London.

From 1700 to 1750 the death-rate in London was so high that the population stagnated. In the former year the inhabitants numbered 665,200, and in the latter 653,900. During this period the deaths were in the ratio of about one per thirty persons living. By 1801 the population had crept up to 777,000, and the deaths had fallen to one in forty-one persons living. This great improvement in the state of public health in London was not, except to a trifling extent, the result of sanitary legislation. People were becoming more enlightened on many matters affecting their health, partly owing to a more general knowledge of chemistry, physiology and other sciences relating to man and his surroundings. When those intrusted with the conduct of public affairs become aware how much the health of the people was affected by bad water, by foul emanations, and cesspools, and by too great a density of population, they began to secure supplies of pure water, to construct proper house-drains and street-sewers, to remove systematically filth from houses, and to widen streets. The promulgation of the natural laws of health preceded the enactment of laws of health by the state. Jenner's discovery of prophylaxis in small-pox had for its corollary the vaccination laws. The chemical analysis of water was the basis of acts of parliament relating to water and rivers.—*Medical Record*.

Treatment of Burns by Europhen.

Dr. Siebel (*Berlin Klin. Wochenchr.*, No. 8, 1892) speaks as follows on this subject:

"I have employed Europhen for almost one year in the treatment of burns and injuries resulting from corrosive substances, which, as is well-known, from the main contingent of accidents at chemical manufactories and have been for some time past treated almost exclusively with iodoform.

"I will not weary you with the histories of cases, for none of them were of an unusual character; but will content myself with the statement that I have treated, with equally good results, about thirty patients suffering from burns and the effect of caustics, from the slightest forms to the third degree, and arising from all sorts of injurious agents (as for example, hot soda lye, boiling glycerine, sulphuric or hydrochloric acid, burning alcohol).

"At first applied the Europhen in the same manner that it is customary to use iodoform, that is, after cleansing the parts opening the bullæ, etc., I covered the burned places lightly with Europhen powder, then applied a dressing of sterilized gauze and cotton and fixed this with bandages. If the burned areas were extensive or could not be readily covered with the powder, I dressed the wounds with ten per cent. Europhen gauze, renewing the dressing as often as was necessary. Under this treatment exuberant granulations were formed and the cicatrix was firm, yet elastic. The only disadvantage of this dressing was occasionally observed the firm agglutination of the gauze to the wound, and this could not be completely obviated by interposing a layer of gutta percha paper. In consequence of this adhesive the exuberant granulations were frequently torn on renewal of the dressing and slight hemorrhages produced.

"To avoid this disagreeable feature I made use of Europhen in the form of ointments, and at first of a 10 per cent. ointment. As the latter, however, produced irritation in some instances, and in one case a slight eczema, I diminished its strength and finally

adopted a three per cent. ointment of Europhen with vaseline and lanoline (Europhen 3.0, ol. oliv. 7.0, add vaseline 60.0, lanoline 30.0). I obtained the best results from this ointment, and what was especially remarkable was the marked diminution of the secretions. Owing to the latter effect it was found possible to leave the dressings in place for three or four days and to renew them easily and without pain (many patients were enabled to continue work under the use of a starch dressing). Severe burns of the third degree healed completely after three or four dressings. The longest period of healing (twenty-two days) was observed in a case of severe injury from hydrochloric acid extending from the elbow to the wrist over a breadth of five centimeters. It should also be noted that the Europhen ointment relieved the pains from the moment it was applied to the burns. Unfavorable effects or symptoms of poisoning have never been observed by me, aside from the irritation produced by the stronger ointments. In children Europhen can also be employed without risk, since it may be regarded as innocuous, at least in the doses which obtain here. I have myself taken internally, for a period of three weeks, from six to eight grams of a twenty-per-cent. solution in oil every day, that is, about one and one-half grams of Europhen daily without experiencing the slightest discomfort or even as much as an impairment of appetite.

"On the ground of these observations I would highly recommend the three per cent. Europhen ointment in burns of all degrees of severity. The results are better than from the use of iodoform, and besides the absence of all disagreeable odor, there is no danger of the toxic effects which, although fortunately rare, are sometimes observed from the application of iodoform.

In a Kansas City newspaper's report of the meeting of a Methodist conference, the "mint, anise and cummin" of Scripture appeared as "mist, arnica and cinnamon."—*Argonaut.*

Medical Chemistry, Urinalysis and Pharmacy.

A ten weeks' course in these branches will be given at the Kansas Medical College, beginning April 4, 1894.

D. B. Colcord, M.D.,
603 Kansas Avenue,
Topeka, Kansas.

A Primer of Psychology and Mental Disease, by C. B. Burr. Published by Geo. S. Davis, Detroit.

This is a valuable work for a beginner in the study of psychology and mental diseases. The classification of the organic and mental developments during childhood, pubescence and adolescence is well stated.

His views on the various forms of mental disturbances, their causes and general management, are abreast of the times. We would recommend Dr. Burr's primer to the profession as a *multum in parvo.*

Too Late.

"How much is a dose of croton oil?" inquired a professor of materia medica and therapeutics of a member of his class. "A teaspoonful," was the ready reply. The professor made no comment, and the fellow soon realized that he had made a mistake. After a quarter of an hour he said: "Professor, I want to change my answer to that question." "It's too late, Mr. ——," responded the preceptor, looking at his watch; "your patient's been dead fourteen minutes."—*Ex.*

A False Report.

Bunsby.—"I am awful glad to see you, old man; I read in the paper that you were dead."

Bixby.—"Yes, I saw it too, and I knew it was a lie the moment I read it."